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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,667	07/25/2003	Tadashi Kumamoto	1614.1349	1822
21171	7590	06/17/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/626,667

Applicant(s)

KUMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

Art Unit

2833

and

-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/25/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. Claim 4 is objected to because in the last line, "said wall portions" lacks an antecedent basis.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

3. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuji (6,203,362)

This disclosure of Tsuji provides a complete response to each and every elements set forth in the claims. For example. Figs. 1-4 show a cable guide 35 being an independent member and being attached detachably to a connector cover 21, wherein the cable guide has a pipe (36L, 36R).

As to claim 3, a part (44,45) attaching the cable guide to the connector cover arranged symmetrical above a cable axis of the connector cover as shown in fig. 1.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji (362) in view of Orr, Jr. et al.

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Tsuji does not show the connector cover having a first half cover and a second half cover connected to each other. Orr, Jr., Figs. 1-2 show a connector cover having a first half cover 12 and a second half cover 13 connected to each other. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Tsuji by forming the cover with a first half cover and a second half cover, as taught by Orr, Jr, in order to allow easier assembly.

As to claim 4, a portion 45 of the cable guide at a base part 43 for engaging with receding portions 44 formed limitedly within respective ranges of widths of the wall portions 43.

As to claim 5, the first cable half guide and the second cable half guide having portions (38, 40) being engaged to each other at end parts of the first and second cable halves as shown in fig. 4.

7. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tan et al (6,644,999).

The disclosure of Tan provides a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claim. For example: Figs. 3-4 show connector cover 300, a first half cover 330, a second half cover 332, wall portions 332, a cable guide 302 attached to the connector cover by a portion (310, 312) at a base part thereof.

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9. Stagg et al, Saka et al, Tan et al (6,475,021) and Chow are cited for disclosure of electrical connectors with a pipe guide.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D Vu at telephone number (571)272-2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hien Vu", with a stylized, cursive script.

HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER